

RECOGNIZING THE PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS FROM OREGON'S
3RD DISTRICT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once stated that "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures." As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps, the truth of that statement is confirmed every day by the outstanding group of men and women promoting international understanding and progress across the globe.

During this National Peace Corps Week, I want to honor the service and commitment of the Peace Corps Volunteers from Oregon's 3rd Congressional district and express my pride in my fellow Oregonians who have chosen to devote years of their lives in service to others.

In particular, I want to recognize the current Peace Corps Volunteers whose service began in the past year: Ethan Choi (Bulgaria), Katie Conlon (Mali), Nancy Davis (Mexico), Rebecca Inman (Madagascar), Michael Lemmo (Ecuador), Cara McCarthy (Madagascar), Chris Pexton (Namibia), Jonathan Ruff (Costa Rica), Patrick Schmidt (Namibia), Candace Watson (Swaziland), Delores Watts (Malawi), Kimberly Wells (Malawi), and Malia Wetcher (Mozambique).

Their work to empower people and communities in developing countries is a crucial contribution to creating a safe and prosperous world, building bridges between America and the world, and establishing a better future for people everywhere.

CONGRATULATING MR. JIMMY
FAULKNER, SR. ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor a great man, as well as a true friend, Mr. Jimmy Faulkner, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Few people have enjoyed a more wonderful life than "Mr. Jimmy."

As an Air Force pilot, young Jimmy Faulkner answered his nation's call to serve and serve he did, always with distinction, valor and honor.

Upon completing his service in the Air Force, Jimmy Faulkner set out to blaze a trail of success in the world of business, spanning 42 years as the owner and publisher of a chain of south Alabama newspapers, as well as serving as president of seven radio stations. At the same time, he continued to find a way to serve his community, state and nation, first by being elected the youngest mayor in America in 1941, when he was elected mayor of his beloved Bay Minette.

Years later, Mr. Jimmy would go on to serve Baldwin, Monroe and Escambia Counties by

becoming one of Alabama's most respected and influential state senators. Twice he also ran for governor of Alabama.

Still later, Mr. Jimmy's entrepreneurial talents would give him the confidence to start Loyal American Life Insurance Company. And during most of the past 50 years, he has also been associated with Volkert & Associates, one of the top engineering, architectural, planning and environmental firms in the United States.

One of Jimmy Faulkner's passions has been his lifelong dedication to improving education. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Alabama Christian College in Montgomery, which was renamed Faulkner University in his honor, and Chairman of the Advisory Board for James H. Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette. Mr. Jimmy holds seven honorary doctorate degrees in law and humane letters, and he has served on several commissions that worked to improve Alabama's secondary education system.

Jimmy Faulkner was named the North Baldwin Chamber of Commerce "Person of the Century" in 2000. In 2003, he was awarded the Alabama Press Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award" and received the Volkert Chairman's Award in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no other individual more important to south Alabama or to the life of his local community than James H. "Jimmy" Faulkner, Sr. He is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to public service, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on reaching this milestone. I know Mr. Jimmy's colleagues, his family and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE 415TH CIVIL AF-
FAIRS BATTALION FROM KALA-
MAZOO, MI.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion from Kalamazoo, MI who have bravely served our Nation overseas in Iraq. This Sunday, March 5th, the entire Battalion will be honored for its distinguished service in Iraq, receiving the prestigious Meritorious Unit Commendation that is bestowed upon battalions that are particularly meritorious and exceptional in their services against an armed enemy during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to the Battalion's group recognition, 100 members of the unit will also be personally awarded the Combat Action Badge, which provides special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage the enemy, or are engaged by the enemy during combat operations.

I am so proud of the 415th Battalion because they represent all of the many and diverse jobs that our troops have set out to accomplish in Iraq. For example, this Battalion has administered over 1000 reconstruction

projects, implemented and managed 43 separate school reconstruction projects, provided medical screening to Iraqi citizens, even helped forge a relationship between Harvard University's medical school and Iraq's Tikrit University of Medicine.

The work of these men and women represents the positive progress that is actually going on in Iraq. The stories and accomplishments of the 415th Battalion are the ones that should truly be grabbing the headlines back home. Once again, I would like to congratulate the 415th Battalion for their much-deserved recognition and thank them on behalf of all the folks in Southwest Michigan for their great service. We are safer as a nation for your service—you make us all proud.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF
2006

HON. LUIS FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, today, Puerto Ricans celebrate the 89th Anniversary of being granted United States citizenship by an Act of Congress. It is on this historic occasion that I, as Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress, am proudly introducing on their behalf the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2006.

Since 1917, we have cherished that citizenship, and the principles of freedom and democracy for which our Nation stands. Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have fought valiantly in all wars since then to defend those principles that we so strongly value, with 50 of our own making the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's current War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill I am introducing today honors the life and sacrifice of these heroes . . . heroes who have left their loved ones behind to defend our democratic values even as they themselves are unable to vote for their Commander in Chief.

After 108 years of being a territory of the United States, Puerto Rico's status dilemma remains unresolved. Over the years, many in Congress have expressed their willingness to respect the right of self-determination for the U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico yet, during that time, there has never been a federally sanctioned self-determination process.

On December 22, 2005 the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status issued a comprehensive and balanced report providing options for the Island's future status and relationship with the United States. This Task Force, created by Executive Orders from President Clinton and President Bush, clearly outlines in its report a process to address Puerto Rico's century old status dilemma.

The bill that I am introducing today simply implements the recommendations of the Task Force Report in order to preserve the guiding principles found in that report, which avoid prejudice towards a particular status option, and develops alternatives that are compatible with the U.S. Constitution and basic policies of the United States.

Some will argue that Puerto Rico's status should be determined by a select few, however, I sustain that, after 108 years of waiting, the four million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico deserve nothing less than a direct and meaningful vote. The Puerto Rico Democracy Act of